



THE
Urban District Council of Worsley.

Annual Reports

FOR 1919,

BY

R. SAYERS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

JAMES WILLCOCK,

Inspector of Nuisances.



ISSUED BY THE
Urban District Council of Worsley,

JUNE, 1920.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Urban District of Worsley
FOR THE YEAR 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Worsley
Urban District Council.*

2nd June, 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to lay before you my Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary condition of your district for the year 1919.

There is a serious rise in the Death Rate, both for 1918 and 1919, due to the very severe epidemics of Influenza. The first in July, 1918, was widespread, but did not cause as many deaths as the two others—October-November, 1918, and February-March, 1919—the Death Rate for March, 1919, being much the highest recorded. It was so serious as to cause a difficulty in the disposal of the dead, your Council being obliged to lend some men to help the ordinary church yard officials. Many dead bodies had to be kept so long as to threaten a nuisance and a danger to the public health.

There is a total absence of death among children under two years of age, and the Zymotic rate is very low.

The area of the district is 5,354 acres, and the population as ascertained by the census in April, 1911, 13,933, averaging 2·5 persons per acre. The average for the Urban Districts in the County is 3·59

Population in Wards and rate of increase compared with 1901.

	1911	1901	Increase	Rate per 100
North Ward	3894	3630	264	7·3
Central Ward	3156	2771	385	13·9
East Ward	3035	2537	498	19·6
Worsley Ward	2354	2062	292	14·1
Boothstown Ward ...	1494	1446	41	3·3
Whole District...	13933	12446	1487	11·9

11·9 for whole district compares with 10·9 for England and Wales.

The Births registered in and belonging to the district numbered 210, the same as the previous year, the rate 13·9 per 1000, compares with 14·3 for last year and 18·5 for the ten years. England and Wales for 1919 was 18·5. For the year 1890 the rate for Worsley was 30.

The Birth Rate for each Ward is as follows:—

	Population	1919	1918	1917	1916
North Ward	4178	16·5	16	17·5	17·7
Central	3435	13·1	13·6	13·2	18·3
East	3315	13	13·7	13·3	16·1
Worsley... ..	2533	7·5	11·2	8	11·7
Boothstown	1591	15·1	17·3	25·4	26·7
Whole District ...	15052	13·9	14·3	13·3	17·4

This year North Ward heads the list with the highest Birth Rate—Boothstown for the first time taking second place instead of first.

Of the 210, 116 were males, 94 females, 205 were legitimate and 5 were illegitimate.

The Deaths numbered 204, 14 more than the previous year, including 34 which occurred outside but belonging to the district, and excluding 2 registered in the district but not of it. 95 were males and 109 females. The rate per 1000, 14·1, compared with 14·5 the previous year and 12·7 for the ten years. The rate for England and Wales (same year) was 13·8, for 148 smaller towns 12·6, for 96 great towns 13·8, for London 13·4, so that we have a higher rate than any of the classes. This is the reverse of the previous year. For the first six months of the year 129 deaths were registered, equal to 63 per cent.

The Death Rate for each of the Wards was as follows:—

	Population	1919	1918	1917	1916
North Ward ...	4025	11·4	14·6	12·2	11·7
Central ...	3283	14	12·1	15·3	13·1
East ...	3164	17·4	14·3	10·3	13·4
Worsley ...	2436	11·9	14·4	14·1	15
Boothstown ...	1541	14·1	14·5	13·2	15·3
Whole District ...	14449	14·2	14·5	13·2	11·26

Infantile Mortality.—15 children under one year of age died during the year, so that for every 1000 births registered 109 died before attaining the age of one year. This compared badly with the previous year, 71 per 1000, which was a record.

In the year 1890 ... the rate was 160 per 1000 born.

In the ten years 1897-1906 „ „ 137 „ „ „

„ „ 1907-1916 „ „ 115 „ „ „

The rate for the Wards is as follows:—North 114, Central 73, East 70, Worsley 105, and Boothstown 292, a very high proportion.

Of the 23 deaths Premature Birth was the cause of 7, Congenital Debility 4, Influenza 4, Measles 1, Pneumonia 2, Accident in birth 1, Asthma 1, Convulsions 2, Marasmus 1.

Seven of the deaths were under one month.

Six were over one and under three months.

Three „ three „ six „

Three „ six „ twelve „

The following Table gives the number of Deaths from the principal causes:—

	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915
Measles	1	0	3	0	6
Phthisis	6	17	8	9	5
Other Tuberculosis...	2	4	3	3	4
Cancer	14	12	13	11	9
Organic Heart	16	17	9	18	14
Bronchitis	27	15	25	24	26
Pneumonia	22	14	8	9	19
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	—	1	1	2	6
Congenital Defects...	12	7	5	13	12
Influenza	26	44	6	6	0

Table showing ANNUAL DEATH RATES for 1916, 1917, 1918, and 1919—and the ANNUAL AVERAGE DEATH RATE for the five years' periods—1871-1875, 1876-1880, 1881-1885, 1886-1890, 1891-1895, 1896-1900, 1901-1905, 1906-1910, and 1911-1915 from all causes, the Principal Infectious Diseases notified, Diarrhoea, Phthisis, and Lung Diseases.

	All Causes.	Principal Infectious Diseases Notified.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Lung Diseases, exclusive of Phthisis.
1871-1875 ...	22·7	4·1	1·	1·8	4·4
1876-1880 ...	21·5	3·9	·8	1·4	5·2
1881-1885 ...	17·7	1·7	·8	1·4	4·2
1886-1890 ...	17·4	1·2	·8	1·2	4·4
1891-1895 ...	17·1	1·7	·7	·8	3·6
1896-1900 ...	14·6	·7	·9	1·	2·5
1901-1905 ...	14·8	1·3	·6	·9	2·9
1906-1910 ...	13·1	·9	·5	·8	2·5
1911-1915 ...	12·4	·7	·3	·5	2·4
1916 ...	13·5	0·8	·05	·7	2·4
1917 ...	13·02	·8	·08	·6	2·9
1918 ...	14·5	·53	·08	1·29	2·2
1919 ...	14·1	·13	—	·48	3·4

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Centre at the Town Hall is open weekly, but as it is controlled from Preston I have no statistics

Measles was present all the year, but more in epidemic form. No School was closed. The notifications were 187, as against 101 the previous year and 264 for 1917.

Phthisis: 12 notifications and 6 deaths. All cases are offered Sanatorium treatment, the accommodation being ample for insured cases. More difficulty is experienced in finding room for those under sixteen years of age.

Scarlet Fever: More cases were reported than for the previous year, and above the average, but no death resulted.

Enteric Fever reported five times, with one death.

Diphtheria reported seven times, with no death.

Chest Diseases other than Phthisis: If in this class Influenza is included (which is really a chest complaint) both 1918 and 1919 stand very high for deaths. 1919 had 75 deaths, 1918 73; whilst 1917, 1916, and 1915 had only an average of 41. This form of illness accounts for the high death rate and sickness rate of 1919 and 1918 as before mentioned.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—There has been much work done in preparation for building new houses. The schemes have been approved, and building may now be expected to begin soon.

There is a crying demand for houses, which becomes intensified daily, and the cases of a house with two bedrooms, where a family of grown up boys and girls is forced to live with a married brother or sister and the husband or wife, becomes more frequent.

The Milk Supply is mainly from two centres, which renders it more easy of inspection and can be more scientifically handled.

The roads in the district are in good condition in spite of the difficulty experienced in procuring material.

Tree Planting on the roads has gone on uninterruptedly. A large number of fresh trees were added during the year.

Statistics relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector will be found in his Report attached, to whom I wish to express my thanks for his valuable assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

R. SAYERS.

WALKDEN, JUNE, 1920.

*To the Joint Committee of the Worsley and Swinton
and Pendlebury Smallpox Hospital.*

GENTLEMEN,

The Hospital was not occupied during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

R. SAYERS, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report

For Year Ending December 31st, 1919.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL,

WALKDEN, JUNE, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Worsley

Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in laying before you my report of work done in the Sanitary, Ashpits Emptying, and Inspection of Canal Boats, during the year ended December 31st, 1919.

The following Tables give the particulars of much useful sanitary work, and the abatement of nuisances and insanitary conditions under the provisions of the various Public Health Acts and Regulations of the Local Government Board.

TABLE No. 1.

No. of Houses visited and sanitary particulars reported upon	124
„ Letters and printed notices sent to abate nuisances ...	140
„ Downspouts repaired and renewed	12
„ Ashpits built, covered or repaired	16
„ Insanitary dwellings dealt with	114
„ Ashbins provided in lieu of Ashpits	None
„ New drains provided or relaid	16
„ Cases of overcrowding dealt with	None
„ Cases before Court	None
„ Miscellaneous Nuisances dealt with	240
„ Observations of Emission of Black Smoke ...	14
„ Rooms Disinfected after infectious sickness ...	86
„ Licensed Slaughter Houses	10
„ Nuisances abated	216

Infectious Diseases Notification Acts, 1889 to 1915.

The number of cases of ordinary Infectious Sickness notified by Medical Attendants during the year ending December 31st, 1919, was 284, and of this number 78 were Scarlet Fever, 7 Diphtheria, 5 Enteric Fever, 7 Erysipelas, 187 Measles. Five cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria were removed to Ladywell Sanatorium for treatment. The houses of patients were visited immediately after notification, and information obtained as to means of isolation of sick persons, number of family, and occupation, and to show that great care was taken in nursing and attention to suggestions put forth, in only three instances was there a recurrence of the illness to another member of the same family.

Particular attention has been paid to cleansing and disinfecting of premises and bedding.

The whole of the Schools have been sprayed with a strong solution of disinfectant, and attention has been paid to sanitary conveniences, all of which are provided with fresh water flush closets.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.

	North	Central	East	Worsley	Beothstown	Total	Total Cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	29	18	28	2	1	78	5
Diphtheria	3	2	...	1	1	7	1
Enteric Fever ...	4	...	1	5	...
Erysipelas	2	4	7	...
Measles	40	45	76	23	3	187	...
Totals	78	69	105	27	5	284	6

Ashpit Emptying.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

With the exception of Boothstown Ward and a portion of North Ward, the cleansing of Closets, Ashpits, and Bins were carried out by the Council's own workmen and team labour, and in consequence of a communication received by the local farmers from the land agent the cost of cleansing and removal of nightsoil and house refuse was very considerably increased. The work, however, proceeded satisfactorily, and few complaints were received, although at times a difficulty arose as to employing suitable men for this particular and important part of the Cleansing Department of the Council.

The following table gives the number of houses attended to in each section of the district.

Name of Ward.	No. of Houses	No. of Water-closets	No. of Privies	No. of Dry Ashpits	No. of Ashbins.
North Ward ...	940	272	668	96	174
Central Ward .	829	336	493	160	176
East Ward, Sec. 1	450	127	154	15	127
East Ward, Sec. 2	296	146	322	25	103
Worsley ...	598	390	208	145	244
Boothstown ...	339	84	255	27	56
	<hr/> 3,452	<hr/> 1,355	<hr/> 2,100	<hr/> 468	<hr/> 880

Black Smoke Abatement.

Observations have been taken of premises during the year, and reports as to time limit exceeding in a few cases. Interviews with manufacturers and visits to boiler houses have had a good effect in most cases. In others the poor quality of fuel has been the suggestion as the cause where black smoke was excessive. No doubt that given reasonable amount of combustible coal and care in stoking, along with sufficient boiler power, is probably the best solution to combat the evils of black smoke production where steam is required. The adoption of electric power by several firms in recent years has dispensed with steam, and a great improvement has been effected in the neighbourhood of such firms.

A number of observations, comprising a full working day, have been made of locomotives on the L. & N.W. Ry. passing between Worsley and Walkden Stations, and reports submitted.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Systematic Inspections and reports to Committee Meeting each month or at periods as occasion required. The general defects noted were defective roofs and spouts, causing dampness in walls and floors, insufficient ventilation, and of living rooms requiring cleaning and limewashing. 116 separate houses were inspected and defects reported upon. 30 separate notices under the Act were forwarded to owners to remedy defects and put the dwellings in a sanitary or habitable condition. In a number of cases repairs were carried out by owners without recourse to the serving of notices.

Slaughter-houses.

The number of licensed Slaughter-houses in the district is ten, and although not being much in use during the war period the premises are maintained in a good condition, are periodically inspected, and any defects noted promptly attended to. All the Slaughter-houses in the district are substantially built brick buildings.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order.

The number of Dairies and Cowsheds on the new register compiled is 21, and the bulk of the milk is delivered from two centres, which are fitted up in the most hygienic conditions. The sanitary arrangements as near as possible are perfect. These premises are frequently visited, and alterations or suggestions receive prompt attention.

Canal Boats Acts, 1877-1884.

I beg respectfully to submit the following report on the working of the above Acts and Regulations of the Local Government Board in the Urban District of Worsley during the year 1919.

The boats have been periodically inspected on the Bridgewater Canal, which passes through the Worsley District for a length of three miles.

The number of boats inspected (48) were from Manchester and Runcorn Registration Authorities, and certificates produced showing that the total registration allowed for 154 persons. The total number occupying the cabins was 85, and included 49 males, 34 females, and 2 children.

No cases of overcrowding came under notice.

No infectious sickness was notified, and the cabins were found to be reasonably clean and watertight.

Ten infringements of the Acts and Regulations came under notice and included:—

Cabins requiring re-painting and repairs	6
Cabins requiring cleaning	4

Complaint notes were sent to the owners of the boats, and verbal instructions given as to cleaning all defects received attention.

The general conditions of the boats, and the people travelling on the Canal, continues to show improvement

Factories and Workshops Acts.

The number of Factories on the Register on December 31st, 1919, was 73, and included 12 Spinning and Weaving, 11 Bakehouses, 9 Dress and Mantle Making, 6 Boot and Shoe Repairing, 11 Joinery and Cabinet Making, 9 Paint Mixing and Decorating, 1 Printing, 3 Cycle Repairing, 5 Blacksmith and Wheelwrights, 6 Tailoring. The Factories are all supplied with a sufficient number of water-closets. There are no offensive trades in the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WILLCOCK,

Certified San. Institute.

TABLE V.
WORSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

I.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	12	4	None
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	59	...	
Workplaces ...	14	...	
Total ...	85	4	None

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Other Nuisances ...	10	10	...	None
Sanitary accommodations (UNSUITABLE OR DEFECTIVE.) ...	2	
Total ...	12	10	...	None